

County Snapshot

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Colusa County is located in the northern part of California's Central Valley. Surrounding counties include Glenn County on the north, Yolo County on the south, Butte and Sutter counties on the east and Lake County bordering on the west.

Colusa County's population is projected to reach 41,400 by 2020, almost double the current population. This represents an increase of approximately 20,400 residents.

The 1999 annual average civilian labor force was 8,890 with an unemployment rate of 15.8 percent. Colusa County is subject to higher unemployment rates due in part to the marked seasonal fluctuations of agricultural employment. The state's annual average unemployment rate was 5.2 for this period.

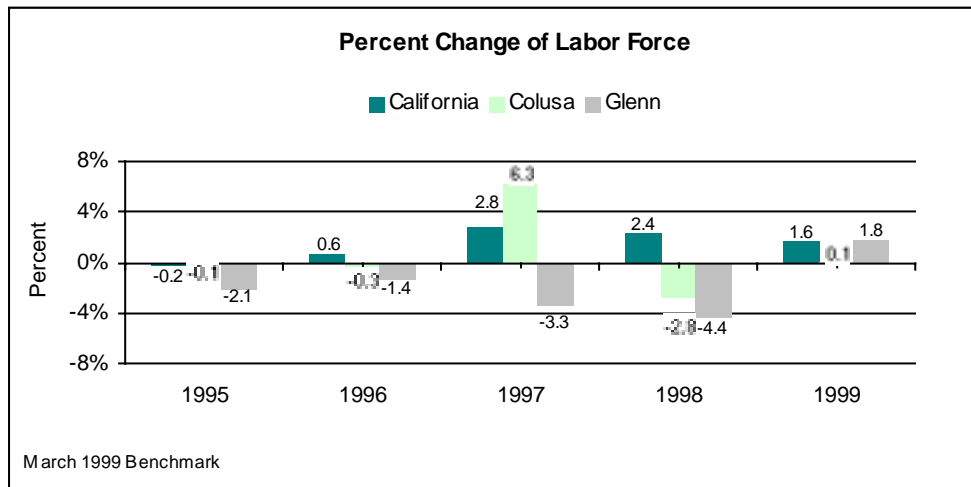
Agriculture is the major industry accounting for almost 40 percent of the employment. Some of the major crops produced include rice, processing tomatoes, almonds, wheat, walnuts and prunes. Rice is Colusa's top commodity. The government sector accounted for over 21 percent of the employment in Colusa County and retail trade accounted for 13 percent.

The fastest growing industries in Colusa County include services at 42 percent, manufacturing at 36 percent and government at 15 percent. Growth in the manufacturing sector is due in part to an expanding food processing industry in this predominantly agricultural region.

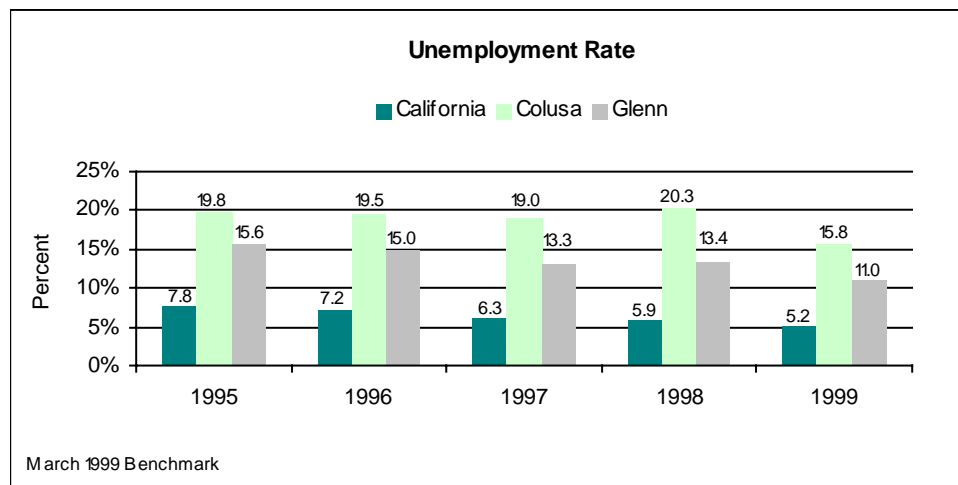
Despite fluctuations in the civilian labor force, recent economic conditions in Colusa County have supported job growth in the nonfarm wage and salary employment and steadily declining unemployment rates. This trend is expected to continue as moderate growth is projected in most of the major industry sectors over the next several years.

LABOR FORCE

Colusa County's gain in its civilian labor force in 1997 was bracketed by small declines. Despite the agriculturally related seasonal fluctuations, Colusa County's cumulative growth in the civilian labor force from 1995 to 1999 was 3.0 percent. Neighboring Glenn County reversed a declining civilian labor force trend to record an increase of 1.8 percent in 1999.

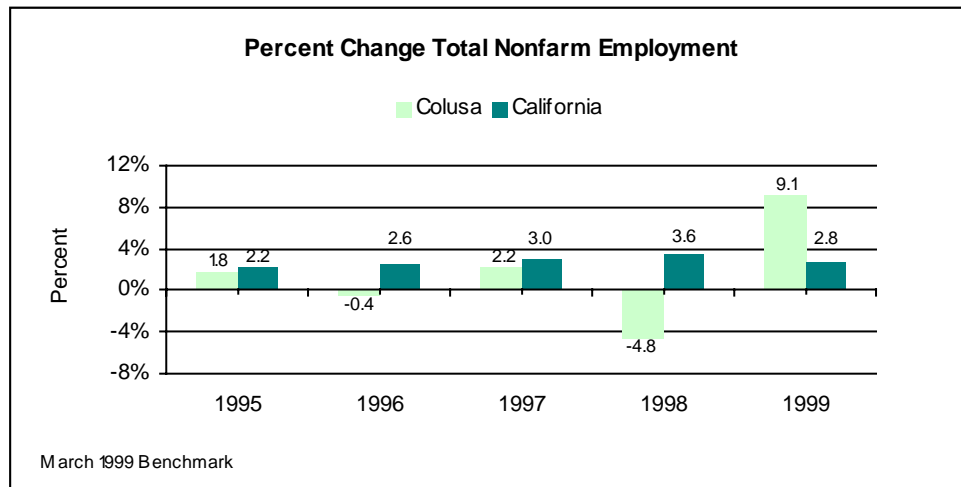


From 1995 to 1999, Colusa County's annual average unemployment rate has dropped 4.0 percentage points from 19.8 percent in 1995 to 15.8 in 1999. Neighboring Glenn County's annual average unemployment rate declined to 11.0 percent in 1999.

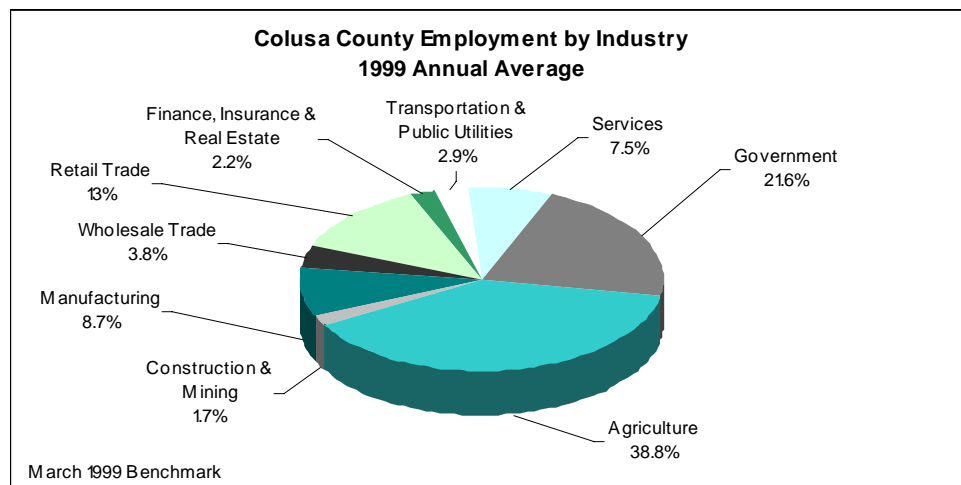


INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

In 1999, Colusa County's nonfarm wage and salary employment increased by 9.1 percent or 400 jobs. Employment gains were evident in both the manufacturing industry and government. The manufacturing industry grew by 7.9 percent and the increases in government were concentrated in local government.



A major portion of the 1999 annual average employment in Colusa County is agriculturally based. Government accounted for almost 22 percent of the employment and retail trade for 13 percent. Services, manufacturing and government are projected to influence growth over the next several years.



OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Demographic trends, shifts in demands for products or services, technological innovations and the way business is conducted are some of the variables that drive employment in an occupation up or down. Also, occupations which have large employment and have high turnover rates generally provide the most job openings. Colusa County is projected to have employment opportunities in the high turnover occupations. Occupational projections for Colusa County are combined with Glenn, Lake, Sutter, and Yuba counties and published as the North Central Consortium projections.

Associated Occupations	SERVICES 1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 42.4%
	Janitors, Cleaners-Except Maids – 210 job openings. Keep buildings in clean and orderly condition; perform heavy cleaning duties such as operating motor driven cleaning equipment, mopping floors, washing walls and glass, and removing rubbish. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.33
	Home Health Care Workers – 180 job openings. Care for elderly, convalescent, or handicapped persons in the homes of their patients. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$5.66
	Registered Nurses – 150 job openings. Provide direct bedside care and assist physicians with examinations, chart the conditions of patients, give medication, and administer treatment as ordered by the doctor. May supervise auxiliary nursing personnel. Associate Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$19.33
	Secretaries, General – 150 job openings. Schedule appointments, give information to callers, take dictation, compose and type routine correspondence, read and route incoming mail, and file correspondence and other records. Post-secondary vocational education. Median Hourly Wage - \$10.98
	Nurse Aides, Orderlies, Attendants – 130 job openings. Help care for physically or mentally ill, injured, disabled, or infirm individuals confined to hospitals and residential care facilities. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.60
Associated Occupations	MANUFACTURING 1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 36.5%
	Graders And Sorters, Agricultural Products – 70 job openings. Grade, sort, or classify unprocessed food and other agricultural products by size, weight, color, or condition. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.66
	Assemblers, Fabricators-Except Machine, Electrical – 70 job openings. Assemble and/or fit together parts to form complete units or subassemblies at a bench, conveyor line, or on the floor. Duties are of a non-precision nature. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$9.27
	General Managers, Top Executives – 30 job openings. Include both top and mid-level managers whose duties and responsibilities are too diverse and general in nature to be classified in any functional or line area of management and administration. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$20.81
	Salespersons, Retail – 30 job openings. Get the customer interested by describing the merchandise and showing how it is used. May also order merchandise, stock shelves, mark price tags, take inventory and prepare displays. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.59
	Wood Machinists – 30 job openings. Set up and operate a variety of woodworking machines to surface, cut, and shape lumber, and to fabricate parts for wood products, such as door and window frames, furniture, and sashes, according to specifications. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.51
Associated Occupations	GOVERNMENT 1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 15.4%
	Recreation Workers – 110 job openings. Conduct recreation activities with groups in public, private, or volunteer agencies or recreation facilities. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.96
	Correction Officers, Jailers – 110 job openings. Guard inmates in penal or rehabilitative institutions in accordance with established regulations and procedures. May guard prisoners in transit. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$19.24
	Police Patrol Officers – 80 job openings. Maintain order, enforce laws and ordinances, protect life and property in an assigned patrol district or beat. Patrol on foot or in a vehicle; investigate accidents; apprehend, arrest and process prisoners; and give evidence in court. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$26.29
	Sheriffs And Deputy Sheriffs – 70 job openings. Enforce law and order in rural or unincorporated districts or serve legal processes of courts. May patrol courthouse, guard court or grand jury, or escort defendants. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$13.94
	Fire Fighters – 60 job openings. Control and extinguish fires, protect life and property, maintain equipment as employees of city township, State or Federal Government. Long-term on-the job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$16.75

This **County Snapshot** is a product of:
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Labor Market Information Division
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